

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL COL- LEGES

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 880) recognizing the efforts of career and technical colleges to educate and train workers for positions in high demand industries, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 880

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that 15,600,000 new jobs will be added to the labor force between 2006 and 2016, with population shifts and new technologies fueling job growth;

Whereas more than 80 percent of respondents in the 2005 National Association of Manufacturers Skills Gap report indicated that they are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers;

Whereas postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education provide the real-world situations necessary to engage students and prepare them for the workforce;

Whereas postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education provide an environment where students can apply fundamental academic skills and employability skills to complex job-related problems;

Whereas postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education connections with local business leaders allow the use of workforce readiness credentials to spread from the ground up in a way that is mutually beneficial to students and employers;

Whereas 14 percent of all employers reported being a member of a career and technical education advisory committee in a Census Bureau Survey; and

Whereas employers assist postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education in developing programs that reflect the needs of industry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the efforts of postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education to educate and train workers for positions in high-demand industries; and

(2) supports the connection postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education provide between employers and students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days

during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 880 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I rise today in support of H. Res. 880, which recognizes the efforts of career and technical education colleges that educate and train workers for positions in high-demand industries. This resolution supports partnerships between career and technical colleges, employers, and students so that students can be prepared to enter high demand technical fields.

Career and technical education colleges help students apply practical information learned in the classroom to employment. CTE schools serve a diverse set of students. They serve secondary students who need job skills to transition into the workplace and employees who need to upgrade their skills for new technologies. Employers work with CTE programs to hire fully competent, well-trained workers for professional technical positions.

As America has evolved from an industrial economy to a knowledge economy, the globalization of business and industry requires workers to acquire core knowledge and skills that can be applied in a wide and rapidly changing variety of work settings.

With the changing business industry, employers want more competent, skilled workers, but they are having a difficult time finding these workers. More than 80 percent of respondents in the 2005 National Association of Manufacturers Skills Gap Report indicate that employers are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers. CTEs are situated to respond rapidly to changing job market demand to prepare potential employees.

Along with CTEs, community colleges help spur the economy and provide a skilled workforce that contributes more than \$31 billion to the Nation's economy. This year, community colleges in this country will award more than 500,000 associate degrees and 270,000 associate certificates.

In September of this year, the House of Representatives passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. This bill includes an unprecedented investment of \$10 billion into community colleges by encouraging partnerships between community colleges, States, businesses, job training, and adult education programs, and by creating a new competitive grant program for community colleges to improve instruction, bolster student services and implement other innovative reforms. Community colleges play an important role in career and technical education, and in many communities are leading the way in providing workforce development programs that meet the needs of local businesses.

Madam Speaker, I again wish to express my support for H. Res. 880, and I

thank Congressman CASSIDY for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 880, recognizing the efforts of post-secondary institutions offering career and technical education to educate and train workers for positions in high-demand industries.

Post-secondary institutions that offer career and technical education are an incredibly valuable resource to our communities. These institutions enable adults in the community to improve their lives by furthering their education in order to improve their employability and working life. Career and technical education enables students to learn specific skills or earn a certificate or a degree that employers require or prefer.

Many institutions that offer career and technical education also have valuable connections with employers in the community. These connections allow these institutions to better serve their students. Employers in high-demand industries are able to communicate with post-secondary institutions what skills, certificates and degrees they expect potential employees to exhibit. The close relationship between post-secondary institutions that offer career and technical education and employers provide students, and potential employees, with a valuable advantage.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that 15.6 million new jobs will be added to the labor force between 2006 and 2016. These industries and employers also benefit from the unique relationship between post-secondary institutions that offer career and technical education and local business leaders. The relationship enables industries and businesses to communicate where there are experience and employment gaps and what skills they require for such positions.

Post-secondary institutions that offer career and technical education provide students and the business community with an invaluable connection.

I am honored to support this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side, so with my gratitude to Mr. CASSIDY, I urge my colleagues to approve this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 880, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1615

RECOGNIZING THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE THAT OCCURRED AT THE CHERRY MINE IN CHERRY, ILLINOIS

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 752) recognizing the tragic loss of life that occurred at the Cherry Mine in Cherry, Illinois, on its 100th anniversary and the contributions to worker and mine safety that resulted from this and other disasters, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 752

Whereas the St. Paul Mine Company Mine in Cherry, a town in Bureau County, Illinois, began operation in 1905;

Whereas the mine supplied the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad with 300,000 tons of coal annually for its locomotives;

Whereas coal remains an abundant source of energy in Illinois and across the country;

Whereas the majority of Cherry miners were immigrants working to achieve the American dream;

Whereas 490 men and boys were working in the mine on Saturday, November 13, 1909;

Whereas 10 of the Cherry miners were boys under the age of 16, including one who was 10 years old, were hired illegally;

Whereas United Mine Workers represented miners at the Cherry Mine in 1909 and continue to represent workers throughout the United States and Canada;

Whereas according to the Mine Safety and Health Administration, there were 2,642 coal mining fatalities in the United States in 1909;

Whereas the main and secondary shafts of the Cherry Mine contained wooden stairs and ladders;

Whereas an electrical outage at the Cherry Mine caused the workers to light kerosene lanterns and torches;

Whereas a torch caught fire 500 feet below the surface in the Cherry Mine;

Whereas the efforts to redirect the fire caused flammable material such as wood to ignite and rapidly spread the fire;

Whereas two shafts were closed to smother the fire;

Whereas the shaft closings cut off oxygen to the workers, and allowed "black damp", a mixture of deadly carbon dioxide and nitrogen to spread through the mine;

Whereas over 200 miners managed to make their way to the surface to escape the fire;

Whereas a group of miners, lead by John Bundy, showed incredible courage by journeying down the mine shaft 6 times to rescue their fellow miners;

Whereas on the seventh attempt the miners caught fire and burned to death;

Whereas a group of 21 miners, who later became known as the "eight-day men", sealed themselves from the fire;

Whereas the "eight-day men" exhibited behavior that can only be described as selfless when helping each other survive;

Whereas a team rescued these men after 8 grueling days underground in torturous conditions;

Whereas 259 miners, including 4 children, perished in what became known as the Great Cherry Mine Disaster;

Whereas the United Mine Workers pressed successfully for mine safety reforms following this and other disasters like it;

Whereas the United States Bureau of Mines was created in 1910 as a result of disasters like the Great Cherry Mine Disaster;

Whereas the State of Illinois reacted by passing stronger mine safety regulations;

Whereas those mine regulations included requiring mine owners to maintain firefighting equipment and require certain workers to pass safety tests;

Whereas the Illinois' Worker's Compensation Act of 1911 recognized the dangers that mine workers faced and continue to face today; and

Whereas November 13, 2009, marks the 100th anniversary of the Great Cherry Mine Disaster: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the 259 miners lost in the tragedy known as the Great Cherry Mine Disaster on its 100th anniversary; and

(2) supports the important safety measures that were enacted as a result of this terrible incident and others around the country like it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 752 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 752, memorializing the 100th anniversary of the Cherry Mine disaster of November 13, 1909, in Cherry, Illinois.

This landmark mine disaster, which took the lives of 259 men and children and left 600 grieving widows and orphans, should not be forgotten. I commend Representative HALVORSON for bringing this important chapter in labor history to the Nation's attention.

The fire began in the Cherry Mine after an electricity outage, when burning fuel from a makeshift torch dripped on an underground hay bale. With no firefighting equipment in the mine, workers tried to douse the flames with water from an underground mule stable. The flames grew and the timber structures lining the mine quickly ignited. Some diggers in the lower level

noticed the smoke and suggested to their supervisors that they get out. They were told to continue working. Other workers were reluctant to leave for fear of losing income as they were paid on a piecework basis. Company supervisors waited about an hour before making a systematic attempt to alert workers about the fire. Some of the immigrant workers spoke little English and could not understand the orders to evacuate. No fire drill had ever been practiced. At some point, the mine fan reversed, sucking flames further up the shaft. The ventilation system broke and the escape stairway was consumed in flames.

The 259 deaths from this 1909 mine disaster, coupled with 362 killed from the Monongah disaster in West Virginia in 1907, spurred Congress to create the Bureau of Mines in 1910 as a research agency. However, without enforcement powers, the bureau failed to produce significant changes.

In 1947, amidst fierce industry opposition, the bureau was finally given the power to inspect mines. A mine explosion in West Frankfort, Illinois, which took 119 lives, spurred Congress to give the Bureau of Mines the power to close mines for safety violations in 1951. Many more accidents followed until Congress created the Federal Coal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1969. That law requires quarterly mine inspections and authorized fines for violations.

In 2006, miner deaths soared to a 10-year high with disasters at Sago and Aracoma Mines in West Virginia and the Darby Mine in Kentucky. Congress responded by passing the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, the MINER Act, which requires mine operators to provide caches of air, have rescue teams organized, develop wireless communications, and install tracking systems to locate miners who are trapped underground.

This resolution also recognizes the pioneering work of the United Mine Workers in pressing successfully for mine safety reforms in the wake of the Cherry Mine disaster and other disasters like it.

It is often said that our mine safety laws had been written with the blood of miners. That is, it is only after horrific disasters like the Cherry Mine or Sago that progress is made because of the ensuing public outcry.

While improvements have been made in recent years, more work needs to be done to make sure miners return home safely to their families at the end of each shift. Preventable disasters still occur, like the tragic loss of life we saw at Crandall Canyon Mine in Utah in 2007. Although there have been nearly 100 years of effort in Congress since the Cherry Mine disaster to protect underground miners, this resolution reminds us that our work is far from over.

Madam Speaker, once again I express my support for H. Res. 752. I thank Representative HALVORSON for bringing